

GCOM-W1/AMSR2 microwave brightness temperature now available to NHC

The GCOM-W1/AMSR2 microwave brightness temperature data products are now being made available to NHC in near real-time as part of an operational demonstration project being conducted by NOAA's GCOM Project. A goal of the demonstration project is to gather feedback from the operational users of NOAA's GCOM-W1/AMSR2 processing system before it officially begins. NHC hurricane specialists utilize microwave brightness temperature imagery to aid in storm location and structure analysis. This demonstration project enables NHC forecasters to utilize AMSR2 data during the hurricane season to aid in their decision-making process.

The AMSR2 Level 1 data is being provided by JAXA directly to NOAA's GCOM-W1/AMSR2 Product Development and Validation project, which is responsible for development and validation of AMSR2 products for NOAA. The calibrated microwave brightness temperature product being provided to NHC is just one of 11 Level 2 products that AMSR2 will provide to support NOAA's mission.

The NOAA GCOM Project has collaborated with colleagues at the NRL in Monterey and the NASA SPoRT program to flow the AMSR2 microwave brightness products to NHC so they can be displayed within their existing workstation environment. The AMSR2 microwave imagery was utilized by NHC as soon as it became available in near real-time.